

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH NOUFAL

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the life of my constituent Mr. Joseph "Joey" Noufal from Leesburg, Virginia, who passed away on May 31, 2017, at the age of 48. Throughout his life, Mr. Noufal was an esteemed entrepreneur in our community and a devoted husband, father, and friend. Revered for his sincerity and beloved for his contagious smile, generosity, and compassion, Mr. Noufal embodied an innovative and zealous character. His legacy endures and he will always be remembered and missed by many.

Originally from Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Noufal immigrated to Northern Virginia during his childhood. From a young age, he developed the essential entrepreneurial qualities of reliability, creativity, and determination by working in his family's salon. Later on, he earned his Associate's Degree in Graphic Design. As an award-winning hair stylist, he successfully ran Noufal Hair Color Studio for more than a quarter-century. Throughout his career, Mr. Noufal garnered numerous international certifications and made house calls to royal families and foreign dignitaries. Additionally, Mr. Noufal operated various business ventures involving franchising, coffee distribution, and corporate cleaning.

Recently, Mr. Noufal and his wife, Vicky, celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary. Together, they have three sons, Alexander, Brandon, and Mason. Mr. Noufal often remarked that his greatest accomplishment in life was being father to his sons and a partner to his wife. He is also survived by his mother, six brothers, and two sisters.

Mr. Noufal leaves behind a remarkable legacy and an extensive entrepreneurial career to the Commonwealth. His unyielding strength and devotion to his work and clients attested to his selfless character and genial demeanor. He will be greatly missed by the countless lives he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Joey Noufal. May he rest in peace, and his family be comforted.

THE HOUSE'S RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S REMARKS
ON U.S.-RUSSIA CYBERSECURITY
COOPERATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my distress over the House's response to President Trump's recent comments on cybersecurity cooperation with Russia.

The U.S. Intelligence Community has overwhelmingly concluded that Russia actively sought to influence the 2016 election through

an active disinformation campaign, and covert cyberattacks. Yet this past weekend, in an act that confounded Republicans and Democrats alike, President Trump bragged about discussing with Vladimir Putin the possibility of establishing a joint cybersecurity unit with Russia. The idea that we would cooperate with Russia on cybersecurity, which would necessarily mean sharing some of our strategies, defies logic.

Naturally concerned by this reckless announcement, this week several of my colleagues and I offered amendments to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to prohibit such cooperation. However, House Republicans refused to bring a single one of them to the floor for consideration.

Not only has our President refused to fully accept the overwhelming evidence that Russia actively sought to influence our elections, he now continues to place our national security at risk by floating the absurd idea that we should actually cooperate with Vladimir Putin, who ordered this campaign against our democratic institutions, in order to guard against future cyber threats.

Mr. Speaker, it would be laughable, if it were not so shameful, that House Republicans are refusing to do anything to even consider prohibiting such a dangerous course of action by President Trump. Why not let the full House vote on this proposal? If any of my colleagues do think it's a good idea to work with Russia on cybersecurity, let them come to the floor and explain themselves.

What will it take before House Republicans take a stand against Russia's actions? If we do not do it, then I promise you it will happen again in the next election.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Franks Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 2810, the "National Defense Authorization Act" (NDAA), which would require the federal government to conduct so-called strategic assessments of Islamic religious doctrine.

I am shocked and appalled at this blatant attempt to single out Muslims for a religious test in a direct violation of the Constitution and our nation's founding principles.

It frankly astounds me that such a hateful, discriminatory, and incoherent piece of religious bigotry has been made in order for this bill and is under consideration today.

To illustrate the sheer absurdity of this amendment, I would like to offer the amend-

ment's sponsor a brief lesson on the history of religious persecution and freedom in the United States.

In 1620, a group of English-born Puritans braved the Atlantic Ocean in order to found Plymouth Colony in the New World of America—they were fleeing, above all else, religious persecution in England, where discriminatory religious tests were common practice and the law.

On September 17, 1878, two and a half centuries later, 39 delegates signed the United States Constitution; in Article 6, Section 3 of this Constitution, they wrote that "no religious test shall ever be required . . . under the United States."

In the First Amendment, they went even further: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Every child in America knows these facts about our nation's founding.

The essential human right to freedom of worship, without fear of persecution or discrimination, is explicitly written into our genetic code as Americans.

What we do not teach our children is to associate any particular religion with the violent acts of a few extremists who claim to belong to that religion.

We understand that such an accusation would be irrational, intellectually dishonest, and ineffective at identifying and combatting the real roots of violent extremism.

It would be remiss for me to neglect to point out that the Ku Klux Klan was founded and continues to identify as a Christian organization, or that racial terrorist Dylann Roof, who murdered nine innocent churchgoers in cold blood, was himself a member of a Lutheran church.

Yet Representative Franks' amendment does not require any strategic assessments of "violent or unorthodox" Christian doctrine.

Instead, Amendment No. 13 wrongfully casts the specter of terrorism upon all Muslim communities and individuals through the use of coded language like "strategic assessments."

Nowhere does this Amendment acknowledge the fact that many Muslims, both domestically and abroad, have been contributing wholeheartedly to the U.S.'s mission to end violent extremism.

Amendment No. 13 mandates the identification of key Islamic leaders who practice any form of Islam, with no exception for those who have never violated any laws—this is not only a completely nonsensical proposition, but a dangerous violation of the principles of religious liberty, individual privacy, and equal protection as established by the First Amendment.

Amendment No. 13 requires the Secretary of Defense to create a "team of experts" to determine which practices and beliefs of the Islam are legitimate or acceptable—another direct violation of the Constitution.

Mr. Chair, this Amendment is a stain on our national honor and pride as Americans.